

**NEBRASKA WILL SUPPLY
NATION WITH POTATOES**

(Continued from page 1 this section)
stances have a small amount for ex-
district, where the great bulk of Ne-
braska potatoes are produced, that
district is divided into the dry-land
farming area where the production is
greatest, and into the irrigated area,
where potato production is fast be-
coming a rival to the sugar beet in-
dustry which has heretofore received
the most attention.

We find that eastern Nebraska
thru local garden projects and indi-
vidual efforts, stimulated by high
prices, will with a normal crop prob-
ably feed itself this year. In the
central and hills region, production
will likely be stimulated to a slight
extent, but it is unlikely that little
change will be made in the available
food supply as that district is essen-
tially a grazing and stock country. In
the western part of the state, which
is the heaviest producer of this
crop, indications point to a heavy in-
crease in production and we find
that the people are fully cognizant,
not only of their opportunities, but
also of their patriotic duty in the
matter of food production. In the
dry farming area the crop will be
greatly increased if the year is nor-
mal, both from an increased acreage
which we estimate at 50 per cent
above the published statistics of last
year, which appear to be too low,
and by better and more intensive
cultivation, a lesson that has been
impressed upon the farmers there by
the experiences of past years.

In the irrigated district the in-
crease will be phenomenal, because
there is more land available than
heretofore and because the alfalfa
fields are being converted into pota-
to land because of the anticipated
prices. Potatoes will rival sugar
beets this year. Added to this, there
is the impulse given to production
by the realization that it is the pa-
triotic duty of the potato region "to
do its bit" in feeding the nation and
contributing to the welfare of the
less fortunate people whose salvation
from hunger is assured if there is an
abundant supply of the lowly but
necessary spud.

The Wyoming homesteaders who
have been established on the dry
homesteads for a sufficient length of
time and who are largely sons of
western Nebraska farmers, having
learned potato culture in Nebraska,
will produce a crop in 1917 that will
assist materially and in succeeding
years of the war, even more will be
accomplished. In the irrigated dis-
trict around Torrington, Wyo., just
west of the state line, there will be a
marked increase in production as
there has been more land broken and
fifty cars of potatoes were shipped in-
to that district for seed purposes. We
recommend that the state Council of
Defense and those in charge of food
supplies extend to the growers of
eastern Wyoming all the advantages
and facilities for conserving this
year's crop that have been evolved
for western Nebraska.

We find that the government serv-
ice in the potato belt, whereby the
shippers and growers were informed
of production, shipments, prices,
weather conditions, etc., were of in-
estimable benefit to the shippers and
growers of potatoes. We earnestly
recommend from a first-hand knowl-
edge of the situation that the gov-
ernment again render this service in
1917, maintaining headquarters at
Alliance, as heretofore, since from
this point the dry and irrigated land
producers of potatoes can be served
with dispatch and the reporter in
charge can readily verify his reports
by personal visits to the fields.

We find that the labor question for
spring and summer work is practi-
cally solved now by the community
and commercial clubs of that section
but we anticipate that in the event
of a normal crop, a serious shortage
of harvest hands will exist. We feel
that the increased acreage is a result-
ant of the demand as voiced by Pres-
ident Wilson. We believe that we
cannot impress too strongly upon
this congress the necessity of provid-
ing the producer with the necessary
labor to save their crop before freez-
ing period. The crop for the most
part will not be planted until the
last days in May or early in June,
the latest planting being not later
than June 25. The crop will not
begin to ripen until after the first
killing frost to any great extent, and
in the high altitude of western Ne-
braska, the period between the first
killing frost and the first severe
freeze is not so great as in eastern
Nebraska.

The harvest cannot be started pre-
maturely or the potatoes will not
keep. At this point we desire to
suggest that if the principle of true
economy and elimination of waste is
to be followed, that the consumer
should not demand new potatoes and
the producer should not harvest a
green crop but on the contrary in
order to obtain the full value, the
crop must be permitted to complete-
ly mature before being harvested.
The date of the average killing frost
is about September 20. The danger
date of a freeze is about October 4.
The average date of a freeze severe
enough to harm crops in the ground
is about October 17. This shows
the absolute necessity of labor be-
tween September 25 and October 15,
and we recommend to the national
and state labor bureaus and the
State Council of Defense that they
co-operate with the Associated Com-
mercial Clubs of the Pan-handle re-
gion of Nebraska to the end that la-
bor be provided at this critical time.

Western Nebraska potato produc-
ers are going ahead with an increas-
ed acreage and with the high re-
solve to do more intensive farming
depending on the outside sources for
the labor needed and with a faith
that it will be forthcoming. Noth-
ing will discourage potato production
more in the succeeding years of the
war than that this paramount re-
quirement be not met. If necessary,
the soldiers in camp should be uti-
lized in harvesting potatoes for that
will be one of the great crops so
much needed to feed the army.

All the available seed will be
planted and as that supply is now
exhausted, there is nothing that we
can find to increase production ex-
cept better and more intensive culti-
vation. We believe the anticipated
fair prices will provide encourage-
ment to that end and we strongly de-
precate the idea of fixing a maximum
price for food stuffs as tending to
discourage intensive cultivation,
which is the only avenue left to us
to increase the production of this
commodity. We find that the farm-
ers, as a rule, are fully aware of the
latest and best ideas on farming po-
tatoes and that they are constantly
utilizing the excellent information
disseminated in western Nebraska
especially by the farm demonstra-
tors, and we therefore feel that any
exhaustive directions as to preparing
the ground, seeding and planting are
superfluous.

For the eastern part of the state
where potatoes are not a major crop,
we recommend to farmers and gard-
eners the state and national publica-
tion with special emphasis upon a
study of the insect enemies of pota-
toes and methods of destroying them.
We find that western Nebr-
aska is not afflicted with insect en-
emies of this kind but that the es-
pecial study for the producer there
is the diseases that attack and de-
stroy the finished product in storage,
such as dry rot and black leg.

We appreciate that one of the im-
portant considerations in food con-
servation is the storage of the same,
and while the larger potato districts
have great storage facilities now,
yet with the increased crop, it will
demand more. We therefore recom-
mend that steps be taken to provide
for additional storage facilities. A
special care should be taken by the
government and men should be dele-
gated to inspect and disinfect potato
cellars and warehouses to the end
that waste from that source be elim-
inated. The work of caring for the
harvested crop is of super import-
ance and we deem it essential that
the University of Nebraska enlist
their forces in the work of conserv-
ing the crop after maturity. The
farm demonstrators who in a meas-
ure represent the government, and
the organizations of western Nebr-
aska are the bodies now ready and
equipped for service through which
this work can best be consummated.

If the war is to continue another
year and if the needs of the people
for food is to increase in future years
as has so often been emphasized
from this platform by the speakers
and officials, then the greatest oppor-
tunities in potato culture increase
lies in the bringing into actual pro-
duction, with due regard to crop ro-
tation, of the five million acres of
illable land now in use only for
grazing purposes in western Nebr-
aska. There is in the aggregate sev-
eral thousand acres in small patches
which were farmed when the land
was homesteaded twenty-five to thirty
years ago and when the period of
low prices and overproduction came
in the early 90's, these lands were
sold at a cheap price to ranchmen
and are now parts of large tracts.
These tracts could be plowed this
summer and would be the best of po-
tato ground next year and could be
made to produce a crop of millet or
cane yet this year. These lands are
all rich, dark soil, capable of grow-
ing wheat and other crops. Near
the towns the farm land is being
cultivated very extensively but a lit-
tle way back there are hundreds of
these tracts, enough to produce all
the spuds Nebraska can consume. We
do not desire to appear critical, but
we believe that it is false economy to
plow up verdant lawns and expend
money to destroy that which the or-
iginal cost of was so titanic to plant
potatoes or like crops when one-half
the actual money expended thereon
would place under cultivation these
thousands of unutilized acres in the
undeveloped country.

The great loss resulting from
waste, due to improper transporta-
tion facilities on perishable prod-
ucts, such as potatoes, must be ab-
rogated by the co-operation of the
railroads in furnishing the potato
shipping districts with ample cars
when the crop can be moved without
danger in transit from freezing. If
freight accommodations are inade-
quate at these vital marketing times
it will mean a heavy loss and the
work of intense cultivation and
proper husbanding will be gone. If
potatoes have to be shipped from a
district after the freezing period has
set in, it will mean the use of re-
frigerator cars and that spells higher
prices to the consumer. The rail-
roads have offered to co-operate by
furnishing cars and moving them
faster to the points of destination.
Shippers should load cars with the
utmost dispatch and receivers should
unload them with equal dispatch.
Transportation is a vital thing and
should engage the attention of the
highest talent in the railroad freight
department. Everyone should co-
operate to see that a single freight
car makes the largest number of
trips possible.

If properly graded, Nebraska po-
tatoes are of as high a class as any
produced in the world. The proper
grading of potatoes means economy
and fair prices to Nebraska produc-
ers. We, therefore, recommend to
the farmers of the potato districts
that they form associations and adopt
rules for the strict grading of pota-
toes.

We believe that the farmer will do
his part. We believe that labor will
lend its best efforts. We believe
that the great transportation com-
panies will do their share and we
hope that not only the potato crop
but that all other commodities will
be spared the curse of advanced
prices by the diabolical food specu-
lators and we urge that drastic ac-
tions be resorted to in order to pre-
vent excess profits by speculators in
food products during the period of
the war.

ducers and is as important for its
food value as any other crop. The
experience of other states is the best
guide. We find that Nebraska pos-
sesses land which is particularly
adapted to the growing of beans. We
believe that this crop should be en-
couraged in this state. From de-
tailed information at hand, we find
that the bean acreage in Nebraska
in 1917 will be from 2500 to 5000
per cent greater than in any former
year. Judging from the experience
of Colorado and South Dakota where
bean production has received atten-
tion, there remains not a question of
doubt as to the advisability of raising
this crop in our own state. It is
authentically reported that all the
available beans for seed purposes
have been exhausted and were this
not the case there would be even a
larger acreage increase.

We recommend that the proper
bodies take immediate steps to pro-
cure additional seed for planting pur-
poses.

We find that cultivation should be
confined to the heat of the day when
the plants are dry and that special
care should be taken to avoid break-
ing the plant in any way as it is
thru such wounds that disease en-
ters and destroys the plant. We re-
commend that the bulletin of the
University Extension Department at
Lincoln be obtained by all raisers of
beans. Beans are especially adapted
to a semi-sandy soil and do excep-
tionally well upon virgin land. There
is special machinery obtainable for

harvesting the crops. That machin-
ery is not expensive and we recom-
mend it to all who have any quantity
of beans planted.

Beans can be made a very profit-
able crop in this state and at this
time when the price of this food is so
high, it is an especially desirable
crop. Beans are of the staple food
products, and a heavy increase in the
crop is necessary at this time.

Talks by Other Members
Following the reading of the re-
port by Mr. Bushnell the chairman
introduced the following, who spoke
briefly on interesting points and who
made clearer some of the subjects
mentioned in the report: Hon. John
H. Morehead of Falls City, former
governor of Nebraska; John L. Mc-
Cague of Omaha, real estate dealer
and capitalist, active in public af-
fairs; K. L. Pierce of Hemingford,
banker, farmer and western Nebr-
aska booster.

The report included a complete set
of statistics covering all of the nine-
ty-three counties of the state, taking
up all phases of the potato and bean
situation. The complete report of
the committee is being published in
pamphlet form for general distribu-
tion and copies can be secured free
of charge from the Alliance Herald
office or from any of the following
members of the committee:

Chairman—Lloyd C. Thomas, Al-
liance.
Secretary—H. M. Bushnell, Jr.,
Alliance.
D. F. Schwab, Lebanon—Counties

of Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Hayes,
Hitchcock, Frontier, Red Willow,
Furnas, Gosper, Phelps and Harlan.
H. A. Swanson, Clay Center —
Counties of Kearney, Franklin, Ad-
ams, Webster, Clay and Nuckolls.

D. S. Dalbey, Beatrice—Counties
of Thayer, Jefferson, Fillmore, Sal-
ine, Gage, Seward, York, Hamilton,
Butler, Polk and Saunders.
John H. Morehead, Falls City—
Counties of Pawnee, Richardson,
Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Cass and
Lancaster.

John L. McCague, Omaha—Counties
of Washington, Douglas and Sar-
py.
Grant Mears, Wayne—Counties of
Burt, Thurston, Dakota, Dixon, Cum-
ing, Dodge, Wayne, Colfax, Stanton,
Cedar, Platte, Madison, Pierce,
Knox, Antelope, Boone, Nance and
Merrick.

Horace M. Davis, Ord — Counties
of Hall, Sherman, Howard, Greeley,
Valley and Custer.
D. H. Cronin, O'Neill—Counties of
Holt, Garfield, Wheeler, Blaine,
Loup, Brown, Rock and Keya Paha.
John E. Jacobsen, Lexington —
Counties of Buffalo, Dawson, Lin-
coln and Keith.

C. H. Cornell, Valentine—County
of Cherry.
Charles K. Bassett, Hyannis —
Counties of Grant, Hooker, Thomas,
Arthur, McPherson, Logan and Gar-
den.
J. A. Bentley, Sidney—Counties of
Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne and Deu-
el.

H. T. Bowen, Scottsbluff—Counties
of Scotts Bluff and Morrill.
Keith L. Pierce, Hemingford —
County of Box Butte.
Herman Peters, Hay Springs —
County of Sheridan.
Arah L. Hungerford, Crawford—
Counties of Dawes and Sioux

W. A. Hack, extra agent, was
transferred from Minnekahta to Bel-
mont to relieve Mr. Gregory, Tues-
day.

Mrs. C. E. Callender and two
daughters, of Ravenna, are Alliance
visitors. Mr. Callender is now work-
ing out of Alliance.

F. L. Buehsestein and G. V. An-
dres, clerks at the yard office, Alli-
ance, made a trip to Denver the first
part of the week.

WM. MORAVEK

owns the follow-
ing brand: On
cattle, "heart"
on lower middle
of right side, also
"heart" on
lower right
thigh. On horses—"heart" on hind
right shoulder.
Postoffice—Canton, Nebr.

AUCTION SALE

2500 Stock Cattle

Will be sold at the Stock Yards
Fremont, Nebr.

12:30 o'clock sharp

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

Herefords - 2500 - Head Herefords



Extra good Panhandle Steers and heifers one and two-year-
olds. Also a few extra good registered Hereford bulls. Now
this is a choice bunch of stuff, and will suit anyone who is in
the market for cattle. They will be sold in lot to suit purchasers

Freight paid to any C. & N. W., point to
Pierre, S. D., Winner, S. D., or Chadron,
Nebraska.

TERMS: Cash or Bankable Paper

MAURICE DEGEN, Owner

Ed J. Askwig and Tim Preece, Auctioneers